

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

*Memo
Chrono*

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
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Remarks

Executive Secretary

4 April 86

Date

3637 (10-81)

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington D C 20505

Executive Registry

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4 April 1986

Lt. General William E. Odom, USA
Director, National Security Agency
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

Dear Bill,

I would appreciate your suggestions on this talk. I would like to include the essence of the following statement I used in a letter to the President:

"Every intelligence collection method we have-

has been damaged by unauthorized disclosures listed in this document. There are 180 of them over the last 20 months, on the average of two a week. The inability to control sensitive information is destructive of morale of people who do keep secrets. It undermines our policy processes. It deters other governments from sharing information and dealing with us."

I worry, however, that this may be telling too much to too many people, although God knows it's been available to everybody in print. Still, people who would like to take advantage of it may have missed some of it and I hesitate to forcibly be the one to bring it to their attention. What do you think?

Yours,



William J. Casey

Attachment:

4 April Draft of DCI ASNE Speech

SECRET

DCI
EXEC
REG

DCI
4 APRIL 86, 0900

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS
9 APRIL 1986

I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE INEVITABLE BUT ESSENTIAL TENSIONS BETWEEN INTELLIGENCE AND THE MEDIA IN OUR UNIQUE DEMOCRACY. I AS HEAD OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AND YOU IN THE MEDIA DO NOT HAVE MUCH OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTACT, BUT I HOPE OUR DISCUSSION THIS AFTERNOON WILL ADD TO OUR UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF ONE ANOTHER.

IN THINKING ABOUT MY OPENING REMARKS FOR TONIGHT, I WAS STRUCK BY THE REALIZATION THAT JOURNALISTS AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. BOTH WORK AT THE COLLECTION AND PROPER PRESENTATION OF ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT LEADS TO INFORMED JUDGMENTS. OUR OFFICERS OVERSEAS, LIKE YOUR CORRESPONDENTS, WORK DAY AND NIGHT TO OBTAIN VITAL INFORMATION. LIKE MANY SKILLED JOURNALISTS, CIA ANALYSTS SPEND HOURS PORING OVER REPORTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES IN ORDER TO PRESENT FACTS IN THE CONTEXT OF BROADER EVENTS AND ISSUES.

AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE, MY PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROVIDE THE MOST ACCURATE, TIMELY ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS TO OUR NATIONAL LEADERS. YOUR JOB NOT ONLY INVOLVES COMMENTING ON SOME OF THOSE SAME ACTIVITIES FOR THE U.S. PUBLIC, BUT YOU ATTEMPT TO MONITOR US, TOO.

YOUR REPORTING EXERCISES AN ADDITIONAL CHECK AND BALANCE ON THE U.S. GOVERNMENT -- FROM THE OUTSIDE. WE ALSO OPERATE OUTSIDE THE POLICYMAKING COMMUNITY AND FOR PRECISELY THE SAME REASON -- TO ALLOW US TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT AND OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENTS TO THE DECISIONMAKERS. WHEN OUR SYSTEM WORKS WELL, WE ARE BOTH TELLING POLICYMAKERS THINGS THEY MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT OF OR MAY NOT WANT TO HEAR.

BUT YOU IN THE MEDIA HAVE MANY OUTLETS, WE HAVE ONLY ONE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. FOR OUR INFORMATION TO BE USEFUL, WE MUST REFLECT DIVERSITY OF OPINION OR POSSIBILITIES, BUT MUST GIVE A COGENT BOTTOM LINE OR PERSPECTIVE. JOURNALISM IS CONCERNED WITH THE DIVERSITY OF OPINION, THE FREE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS, WHILE INTELLIGENCE IS THE ART OF UNCOVERING SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT WILL ENABLE A NATION TO ANTICIPATE AND RESPOND TO THREATS TO ITS INTERESTS.

GOOD INTELLIGENCE SHOULD NOT BE DIVORCED FROM U.S. PUBLIC OPINION, BUT NEITHER CAN IT BE OVERLY CONCERNED WITH THE DAILY SHIFTS, THE UPS AND DOWNS, OF PUBLIC CRITICISM OR PRAISE. AS A RESULT, WE ARE NOT DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE LIKE SOME OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, BUT TO THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. WE IN INTELLIGENCE ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE CONGRESS. WE RECEIVE THE PUBLIC'S DIRECTION THROUGH THEM. THAT IS WHY WE WELCOME CONGRESSIONAL AND PRESIDENTIAL OVERSIGHT.

NEITHER YOU NOR THE CIA CAN DO ITS JOB WITHOUT HAVING SOURCES AND METHODS OF COLLECTING INFORMATION WHICH OFTEN MUST REMAIN UNIDENTIFIED TO THE PUBLIC. I AM REQUIRED BY LAW TO PROTECT THE SOURCES AND METHODS BY WHICH WE COLLECT INTELLIGENCE. THIS IS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY AND ONE I DO NOT TAKE LIGHTLY. YOU IN JOURNALISM TAKE JUST AS SERIOUSLY YOUR RIGHT TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF YOUR SOURCES.

OUR COUNTRY, THROUGH ITS INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, HAS INVESTED TIME, EFFORT, AND TALENT OVER MANY YEARS AND SPENT MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO DEVELOP SOURCES AND METHODS OF COLLECTING THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO ASSESS MISSILES AND OTHER WEAPONS AIMED AT US, TO DETERMINE INTENTIONS AND VULNERABILITIES OF THOSE WHO PLOT AGAINST THE U.S. SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOP EFFECTIVE DEFENSES AND COUNTERMEASURES, TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS AND INSTALLATIONS AROUND THE WORLD FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS, AND TO ASSIST OUR DIPLOMATS. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, INCLUDING OUR HOPES OF EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL AND THE SAFETY OF AND LIBERTY OF OUR CITIZENS. THE PROTECTION OF HOW AND THROUGH WHOM WE COLLECT INFORMATION IS CENTRAL TO OUR EFFECTIVENESS.

OFTEN IT IS DIFFICULT TO BE CONVINCING THAT SMALL BREACHES OF SECURITY OR REVELATIONS OF INTELLIGENCE ON A SOMEWHAT PERIPHERAL ISSUE CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS PROBLEM. BUT THE SOVIETS DO THEIR ANALYSIS OF OUR CAPABILITIES THE SAME WAY WE WORK AGAINST THEM: A PIECE AT A TIME UNTIL THE MOSAIC SHOWS A LARGER AND MORE DRAMATIC PICTURE.

FOR THIS REASON, WE CLASSIFY AND RESTRICT THE CIRCULATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT HOW AND WHERE WE COLLECT INTELLIGENCE AND OF THE REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS BASED ON THAT INTELLIGENCE IF THEY MIGHT REVEAL OR COMPROMISE THE SOURCES OR METHODS. THE KGB AND OTHER HOSTILE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES SPEND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH YEAR IN AN EFFORT TO ACQUIRE THIS INFORMATION. AND THE UNAUTHORIZED PUBLICATION OF THIS RESTRICTED INFORMATION HANDS TO OUR ADVERSARIES ON A SILVER PLATTER INFORMATION THAT THEIR SPIES, THEIR RESEARCHERS, AND THEIR SATELLITES ARE WORKING 24 HOURS A DAY TO UNCOVER AND TO USE AGAINST US.

IN RECENT YEARS, PUBLICATION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY THE MEDIA HAS DESTROYED OR SERIOUSLY DAMAGED INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OF THE HIGHEST VALUE. WE DO NOT GIVE OUR ADVERSARIES FURTHER SATISFACTION BY ADVERTISING THESE DISASTERS, BUT MISUSE OF OR CARELESSNESS WITH INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION HAS COST LIVES, DISCOURAGED SOURCES FROM DEALING WITH US, COMPLICATED LIAISON RELATIONSHIPS, AND COMPROMISED EXPENSIVE AND COMPLEX TECHNICAL COLLECTION SYSTEMS.

WHEN A JOURNALIST WHO BELIEVES HE HAS THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO PROTECT HIS OWN SOURCE THINKS TRYING TO FERRET OUT INTELLIGENCE SECRETS AND TO PRINT THEM IS A CHALLENGE OR A GAME, WHO PAYS FOR ESTABLISHING A COLLECTION SYSTEM TO REPLACE ONE WHICH IS COMPROMISED OR FOR THE EXPENSIVE, TIME CONSUMING AND RISKY EFFORT TO RECRUIT NEW SOURCES OF INFORMATION? YOU, ME, AND

EVERY OTHER TAXPAYER...

EVERY OTHER TAXPAYER IN THE U.S. WE MAY NOT ALL RECEIVE DIRECT INTELLIGENCE, BUT WE ALL BENEFIT FROM IT WHEN IT IS GOOD AND WE ALL PAY FOR IT LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY WHEN IT IS COMPROMISED.

I BELIEVE WE ARE ALL WORKING TOWARD THE SAME GOAL -- MAINTAINING THE BEST AND MOST FREE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. I FULLY SUPPORT AND ADMIRE YOUR COMMITMENT TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND THE DEDICATION AND INGENUITY WITH WHICH YOU MEET THAT COMMITMENT. I BELIEVE MRS. KATHARINE GRAHAM WHEN SHE SAYS -- AS SHE DID RECENTLY IN A SPLENDID SPEECH IN LONDON ON TERRORISM AND THE MEDIA -- THAT YOU IN THE MEDIA "WANT TO DO NOTHING THAT WOULD ENDANGER HUMAN LIFE OR NATIONAL SECURITY" AND THAT YOU ARE "WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN WITHHOLDING INFORMATION THAT COULD HAVE THOSE CONSEQUENCES."

I HAVE WITNESSED ADMIRABLE RESTRAINT AND JUDGMENT BY JOURNALISTS. I HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED BY THE READINESS OF MANY OF YOU TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER WITHHOLDING PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL INTERESTS AND BY TREATING A STORY IN A MANNER WHICH MEETS THE PUBLIC NEED AS THEY PERCEIVE IT, YET MINIMIZES POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO INTELLIGENCE SOURCES. THE TRICK IS TO RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGE AND TO CONSULT ON HOW IT MIGHT BE MINIMIZED. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO HELP IN THIS.

I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE GROWING UNDERSTANDING BY THE PRESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY, TIMELINESS, AND RELIABILITY OF THE ANALYSIS WE PROVIDE TO OUR NATIONAL LEADERS. UNFORTUNATELY, INACCURATE STORIES STILL APPEAR, SOME OF WHICH DAMAGE OUR CREDIBILITY AND CONFUSE THOSE WHO DEPEND ON OUR EFFECTIVENESS.

I HASTEN TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF PREVENTING THESE TYPES OF LEAKS LIES NOT WITH PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON THE PRESS, BUT WITH INCREASING DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE PRESIDENT HAS EMPHASIZED THE SPECIAL OBLIGATION FEDERAL WORKERS HAVE TO PROTECT THE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITH WHICH THEY ARE ENTRUSTED. WE HAVE INCREASED OUR EFFORTS TO UNCOVER THOSE WHO VIOLATE THIS SPECIAL TRUST BY DISCLOSING SENSITIVE INFORMATION TO THOSE NOT AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE IT. WE ARE STUDYING WHETHER NEW LAWS ARE NEEDED TO DEAL WITH FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO DECIDE ON THEIR OWN TO DISCLOSE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WITHOUT REGARD TO THE LIVES THAT ARE JEOPARDIZED OR THE COLLECTION SYSTEMS THAT ARE COMPROMISED.

DESPITE THE SIMILARITY IN OUR GOALS AND THE WAYS WE WORK, JOURNALISTS COLLECT THEIR INFORMATION TO PASS ON TO AS BROAD AN AUDIENCE AS POSSIBLE AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS TRY TO LIMIT DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR INFORMATION UNLESS IT HAS BEEN SANITIZED TO THE POINT WHERE THE SOURCE CANNOT POSSIBLY BE IDENTIFIED.

AS A RESULT, CIA PRESENTS AN EASY TARGET FOR SOME WHO LOOK FOR A QUICK AND JUICY HEADLINE BECAUSE WE RARELY ARE ABLE TO ANSWER BACK. YOU WANT US TO "TELL OUR SIDE OF THE STORY" WHEN OUR SIDE CAN NEVER BE COMPLETELY TOLD. BECAUSE WE NEED TO PROTECT SO MANY PEOPLE AND SO MUCH TECHNOLOGY, IN MOST CASES WE HAVE OPTED TO MAINTAIN OUR SILENCE -- EVEN IF IT MAKES US LOOK STUPID OR UNSAVORY. WE TAKE SOME SMALL COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT THE PEOPLE WHO USE OUR PRODUCT AND WHO OVERSEE OUR WORK BELIEVE WE ARE DOING A TERRIFIC JOB.

IN STRIVING TO PROTECT LEGITIMATE SECRETS FROM DISCLOSURE, WE ALSO ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO KEEP OUR CITIZENS INFORMED ABOUT THE CRITICAL ISSUES WE FACE IN THE WORLD TODAY. WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH POLICYMAKERS IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, INCLUDING TO THE PUBLIC WHEN APPROPRIATE, BUT ALSO TO RESPOND TO APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES ABOUT OUR CONDUCT OF THE INTELLIGENCE BUSINESS.

WHEN OUR INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS REACH THE MEDIA, WHETHER AUTHORIZED OR NOT, WE ARE FREQUENTLY ASKED TO PRODUCE THE EVIDENCE WHICH SUPPORTS OUR JUDGMENTS. SOMETIMES WE CAN, MUCH MORE OFTEN WE CANNOT WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING OUR SOURCES OR TEACHING OUR ADVERSARIES HOW TO DENY US NEEDED INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT LESSON THE HARD WAY. IN 1982, WE RESPONDED TO THE CALL TO "PROVE" THE JUDGMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THAT WEAPONS AND GUIDANCE TO VIOLENTLY OVERTHROW THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT WERE BEING SENT OVER THE BORDER FROM NICARAGUA. ADMIRAL INMAN, MY DEPUTY AT THE TIME, PRESENTED SUPPORTING DETAILS, WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS, TO THE NATIONAL MEDIA GATHERED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

WHAT HAPPENED? A GREAT MANY JOURNALISTS, EDITORS AND LEGISLATORS REMAINED SKEPTICAL BECAUSE FOR SECURITY REASONS WE COULD TELL ONLY PART OF THE STORY, BUT NONETHELESS IN SHORT ORDER THE NICARAGUANS GLEANED ENOUGH FROM THE DETAIL PRESENTED TO THEM BY ADMIRAL INMAN TO CUT US OFF FROM MUCH OF THE SENSITIVE DATA WHICH HAD SUPPORTED OUR JUDGMENT. NOW, ALMOST FOUR YEARS LATER, VIRTUALLY EVERYBODY RECOGNIZES THAT THE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED INSURGENCY IN EL SALVADOR HAS COME FROM NICARAGUA, BUT WE HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME AND MONEY FINDING NEW WAYS TO COLLECT THE INFORMATION WE NEED.

IF WE CAN'T REVEAL OUR EVIDENCE OR DISCLOSE OUR SOURCES, WHY SHOULD THE POLICYMAKERS OR THE PUBLIC TRUST INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS? OUR CREDIBILITY, BUILT OVER NEARLY 40 YEARS, STEMS FROM THE DEDICATION AND INTEGRITY OF OUR PEOPLE AND THE CAREFUL PROCESS BY WHICH THEY ARE PRODUCED. OUR INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS ARE THE WORK OF CAREER PROFESSIONALS BASED ON INFORMATION FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF SOURCES AND THE MOST SOPHISTICATED AND

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY...

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WHICH EXISTS IN THE WORLD -- PHOTOGRAPHY, SPACE SATELLITES, ELECTRONICS, ACOUSTICS, COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTORS, SEISMIC SENSORS AND OTHER SENSORS.

OUR NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES ARE THE RESULT OF LONG HOURS OF PREPARATION AND DEBATE BY ANALYSTS FROM THE DIA, CIA, NSA, ARMY, NAVY, MARINES, AND AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE ARMS AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. THEIR WORK IS REVIEWED BY THE CHIEFS OF THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, AT MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD TO ENSURE THAT THE RELEVANT INFORMATION AND JUDGMENTS HELD BY THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ARE ACCURATELY REFLECTED. AS THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN, I MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO SEE THAT ANY SUBSTANTIATED DISSENTING OR ALTERNATIVE VIEW IS REFLECTED SO THAT POLICYMAKERS HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE FULL RANGE OF OPINION IN THE ENTIRE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

OUR REPUTATION FOR INSIGHTFUL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS IS KNOWN TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE USED THE PRODUCTS WE HAVE PUBLISHED BASED ON OPEN SOURCES. MANY OF YOUR REPORTERS CALL CIA FOR OCCASIONAL GUIDANCE AND FOR BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS BECAUSE THEY APPRECIATE THE QUALITY AND OBJECTIVITY OF OUR WORK. WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE WITH YOU WHEN WE CAN TALK WITHOUT ENDANGERING OUR SOURCES AND METHODS OR WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN MATTERS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY U.S. POLICYMAKERS.

IN A WORLD WHERE THE SOVIET BLOC IS SEEKING TO EXPAND ITS CONTROL AND INFLUENCE AT OUR EXPENSE AND WHERE SOVEREIGN STATES, LIKE LIBYA, USE TERRORISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, IT IS INCREASINGLY ESSENTIAL THAT THE PUBLIC LEARN WHAT SORTS OF CHALLENGES THEIR GOVERNMENT IS FACING.

WE MAKE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES TO SANITIZE OR DECLASSIFY INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. PERHAPS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES OF NATIONAL SECURITY HAS BEEN DIA'S ANNUAL PUBLICATION, SOVIET MILITARY POWER, WHICH IS CLOSELY COORDINATED BY CIA. LAST SUMMER THE COMMUNITY AT THE REQUEST OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS PRESENTED IN OPEN TESTIMONY AN UNCLASSIFIED DISCUSSION OF SOVIET STRATEGIC FORCES.

MORE FREQUENTLY, HOWEVER, CIA MATERIAL IS DECLASSIFIED FOR USE IN OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, SUCH AS STATE'S WHITE PAPERS ON TERRORISM AND TWO PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS ON SOVIET ACQUISITION OF WESTERN TECHNOLOGY. WE DO NOT SEEK TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF INTELLIGENCE LEST IT SEND THE WRONG SIGNALS TO OUR FRIENDS AND SOURCES OVERSEAS. WHENEVER INTELLIGENCE IS USED AS THE SOURCE FOR UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATIONS, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE STAY WITHIN THE EVIDENCE TO MAINTAIN CIA'S INTEGRITY

AND TO PROTECT...

AND TO PROTECT THE POLICYMAKER. THERE IS NO CREDIT TO EITHER WHEN ASSERTIONS MADE IN A WHITE PAPER CANNOT BE SUPPORTED BY HARD INTELLIGENCE.

OUR PRIMARY CREDIBILITY COMES FROM THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF OUR PAST ASSESSMENTS AND FROM THE CONTINUED DEDICATION AND INTEGRITY OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PROCESS BY WHICH THEY ARE PRODUCED.

THIS ORDERLY AND CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO THE PUBLIC USE OF INTELLIGENCE IS GUIDED BY THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND INVOLVES THE CLOSE PARTICIPATION OF INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONALS. IT IS A FAR CRY FROM THE RISKY AND DANGEROUS UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OR LEAKS BY INDIVIDUALS, WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVE. JUST AS YOU AND YOUR REPORTERS REFUSE TO JEOPARDIZE YOUR SOURCES, WE CANNOT LET YOU OR ANYONE ELSE BE THE JUDGE OF WHETHER OR NOT OUR SOURCES SHOULD BE SECRET OR WHETHER OR NOT THEIR INFORMATION IS SENSITIVE. WHEN WE PROMISE OUR SOURCES CONFIDENTIALITY, WE IN MANY CASES LITERALLY HOLD THEIR LIVES IN OUR HANDS.

AS WE RESPECT THE RIGHT OF THE PRESS TO GATHER AND PUBLISH NEWS AND APPLAUD YOUR EXPOSURE OF WASTE, CORRUPTION, AND OTHER MISCONDUCT, I HOPE YOU WILL RESPECT OUR RIGHT AND DUTY TO KEEP THE NATION'S LEGITIMATE SECRETS. AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF EDITORIALS ABOUT THE FAILINGS AND SHORTCOMINGS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, I CAN RECALL FEW, IF ANY, THAT TOOK A PUBLIC SERVANT

TO TASK FOR REVEALING...

TO TASK FOR REVEALING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. YET CLASSIFIED
LEAKS ARE AT LEAST AS DAMAGING AS THE COST OVERRUNS, CONFLICTS
OF INTEREST, AND OTHER TYPES OF MALFEASANCE SO PROPERLY
CRITICIZED BY THE PRESS. THE AMERICAN MEDIA PRIDE THEMSELVES
ON FAIRNESS. SOME INTROSPECTION MIGHT BE IN ORDER REGARDING
HOW THE PRESS RESPONDS TO OFFICIAL WRONGDOING WHEN THAT
WRONGDOING BENEFITS THE PRESS.

WE ARE EAGER TO DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND CLOSER
COOPERATION BETWEEN YOU IN THE WORKING PRESS, WHO PERFORM SUCH
A VITAL FUNCTION IN OUR SOCIETY, AND THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY,
WHICH PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PROTECTING THIS NATION.
AMERICA NEEDS A FREE, VIGOROUS PRESS AND IT NEEDS A SUPERIOR
INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. WE ARE BOTH SERVING OUR COUNTRY. I
TRULY BELIEVE THAT AND HOPE YOU BELIEVE IT, TOO.
